

Contributions

THE WORD

E. B. SHAVER

We are standing at the death bed of this century and as we bid it good-bye many things pass thru our minds, and we recall the wonderful strides made during its life time, in science, philosophy, etc. The practice of medicine has undergone a great change. Surgery has advanced until amputation is robbed of pain. Locomotion is no longer a task confined to the equestrian. Our fathers to meet a congregation a distance of 20 miles would start the day previous. Today we can be with the congregations 50 miles away in two hours. Steam is not only proving a blessing to travel and commerce but facilitates the various industries of the land. Electricity has annihilated distance. We have wired the globe.

The memories of our departed loved ones are awakened as we look upon their life sized photographs by the parlor walls. From the phonograph we hear their words with the natural modulation. We exclaim, how wonderful, what has time wrought, what changes are yet to come? There is no seer to reveal, but in the most of the increase of knowledge with men.

The word of God stands towering over all the works and arts of men. Unchangeable. That Word delivered to the world by the only begotten of the Father will continue to stand on the records and judge the world, when time shall end. The plan of salvation is the same in this century that it was in the first. The confession St. Peter made, Thou art the Christ, is the foundation stone of the building. "Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them liken him unto a wise man which built his house upon a rock." It shall stand saith the Lord. The Son hath given the Word and returned to heaven. The Holy Spirit has come to lead us to his Word, and reprove the world of sin. It is true we are living in the age of the Holy Spirit, but his office is to reprove and woo the sinner to Christ and his Word, bring to the memory of his disciples the words of the Lord and Master. Howbeit when He the spirit of truth is come he will guide you into all truth. Thy word is truth. The sword of the spirit is the word of God. Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. My word is as fire, saith the Lord. It is plain that the Word and Spirit work together. But we naturally inquire, why don't the Spirit lead all men the same way? Will some one tell us? Who attends the Christian Alliance and other societies claiming a guidance of the Spirit, yet they seem not to be a unit on the words of Jesus. We so often come in

contact with parties claiming the power of the Spirit, yet deny the plain teaching of the gospel. Baptism is of no importance. Feetwashing is a matter belonging to the primitive age. The communion is a matter of choice, yet they feel the witness. Brethren, it is a mystery to me. Will some one explain? Christ prayed for them that would believe on him thru the Word. Preach the Word for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. This is the instruction of St. Paul. Has that time come? Let it not come into the Brethren church. Let each preacher hold up the Word to his people and when we follow the teaching of the Word we will have the presence of the Spirit also. Go on, Brother Rensch, in your good work, fight for the Word, and the church will rise up and call you blessed. May we all declare the whole counsel of God, and not follow some spirit that our spirits may dictate, and that our hands be clean, our hearts be clean, our mouths be clean, that we be clean "externally, internally and eternally."

Maurertown, Va.

ESSAY ON TOBACCO

LIZZIE BOWMAN

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness, and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your soul.

We cannot deny that the use of tobacco is not the sincere desire of selfishness. You are selfish when you indulge in a habit you would not want your wife or daughter to engage in. He who earnestly desires to fulfill God's will must daily look into God's law, not with eyes that can see self only. Remember God is love, and love is unselfish. Love goes hand in hand; selfishness stands alone and says, "I don't care, I will do as I please," it matters not if it is an offence to the one we are commanded to love as we love our own bodies. There is a line drawn between selfishness and unselfishness. Unselfishness is in harmony with God's law and selfishness is in harmony with Satan. We ask the question, can we as Christians indulge in the filthy tobacco habit? The answer comes back, lay apart all filthiness and receive the engrafted word which is Christ. If we have not the spirit of Christ we are none of his. We cannot follow our carnal desires and please God. There are many professed Christians who do indulge in this habit. Oh, let us not violate God's law by stepping over the line and reaching down, and grasping the filthy things of earth. Let us look up with reverence to God, who is pure and holy. Tobacco has demoralized many of the fathers of our land, and is demoralizing our young men and boys. It is high time to awaken on this great question. I tell

you we are asleep and have been asleep on this question. How long are we going to sleep the sleep of indifference? We are now ushered into the nineteenth century and yet asleep. Wake up, Oh parents and rid yourselves of this unclean and filthy habit. You are the great life guide of your children. They are placed in your arms for protection. You fathers are supposed to be an example. You certainly ought to be as you claim to be walking in the paths of righteousness, and have been reformed and been converted to God, and are now singing praises to his holy name. Do you not understand this text? Wherefore lay apart all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. There are many men that seemingly are of a higher class that do indulge in this filthy habit. They teach their children a higher and purer aim in life. Can we teach perfection and purity if we indulge in impurity ourselves? Children should look to their parents as being good, true and pure. We must be pure in order to properly teach and point others to Jesus. Jesus came to this world pure and holy, that he might give us a pure example. Then, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, that we may be able to teach and train our children in the way they should go. We should teach our boys the many conflicting honors of the use of tobacco, how it may cause the cup of bodily anguish to run over and bring about a physically ruined body. Boys should strive to be men, but remember, boys, one of the characteristics of true manhood is cleanliness. The man that indulges in this filthy habit is not a free man. He is a slave to tobacco, which ties him down to the filthiness of the flesh. Cleanliness of the flesh and spirit is the only true freedom. Let us unite on this great question. What a burden would roll from many a true heart if they could realize that there were no webs woven to entrap those that are under their protection. The mother looks in the face of her boy, so young and pure, his frank open eyes as pure as the heaven, gazing in our faces, their innocence brings joy to our hearts, but is mingled with sorrow when we think of the life journey before them. It fills the true and honest heart with thoughts like this: Can I do anything for the rising generation? There are fathers whose minds are very shallow in training their boys and often make sad mistakes. There is a double responsibility resting upon you, fathers. You are responsible for your own life and the lives of your children. Do not poison the minds of your children by telling them of the low and degrading things you did when you were young. You will break the trust between you and your children, rather guide their innocent steps in the way of safety which brings